

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Duxbury selectmen open to Habitat project

By KENDRA JOHNSON
The Patriot Ledger

DUXBURY — After hearing a presentation by an official from South Shore Habitat for Humanity, selectmen last night said they would like to have the organization build a house in town.

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that builds affordable homes and provides needy families with a 20-year, no-interest mortgages.

Resident Frank Lord has traveled to other states to help build homes through the program and initiated the presentation to selectmen.

Since it was founded in 1986, the organization

has provided homes for 19 families. Sometimes more than 100 applications are submitted for one house.

Families selected for the program must invest 500 hours of "sweat equity" in their home or another building project.

"It's a hand up, not a hand out," said Habitat Vice President James Flanagan.

The organization recently finished a house in Pembroke, and it is building houses in Rockland and Marshfield and a multihome neighborhood in Quincy.

Flanagan said most of the homes are 1,100-square-foot Capes that, in addition to volunteer labor, cost about \$60,000 for materials and

professional contractors.

Flanagan said communities wanting to build a Habitat house create ad hoc committees of people to help with construction, fund-raising and selection of occupants.

Selectman Margaret Kearney said she would help develop an ad hoc committee to research town land that could possibly be used for a project.

"I've supported Habitat for Humanity and have regretted that we haven't had anything here in Duxbury," Kearney said.

She suggested volunteers search for an appropriate site among town-owned parcels and meet with Town Planner Thomas Broadrick.